

TAILWIND

TRAVIS AFB, CALIF.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 2001

VOLUME 26, NUMBER 31



MAIL BOMB

Don't fall victim to a mail bomb. Know what to look for.

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RAISING THE BAR

Travis medics provide top-notch care in the desert.

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THE WINNER IS...

Intramural softball champions crowned.

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PLAY THE GAME

Free picnic planned as ATWIND winds down.

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Honor & Dignity

[CLICK HERE](#)



Energy tip: Keeping curtains and shades closed during the heat of the day can reduce energy costs by as much as 10 percent.

Summer winds down...

By Brig. Gen. Thomas P. Kane
60th AMW commander

Summer's winding down, Team Travis, but those of you looking for great deals in our base community will see things heating up next week.

First, those of you who got out of the habit of shopping at the Commissary during the recent construction will want to visit during the **Grand Re-opening** Tuesday. The Commissary will offer shopping sprees and other customer rewards throughout the day, but the best surprise for those of you who haven't been there in a while will be the results of the renovation.

The Commissary now offers more spacious aisles, better organized shopping sections, a broader selection of items and expanded weekend hours. In the coming months, additional improvements are planned, including a "Grab-n-Go" meal section for people on the run and the re-opening of the Mini-Comm for after-hours convenience shopping. Travis has the second-largest commissary operation in the Department of Defense — come see what **Mitch Kennerly** and his team have done to help make us Number 1!

You and your family will also want to make an appointment to stop by Hangar 818 next Friday to join our **ATWIND Family Fun Day Picnic**, which starts at noon. For one day, we'll transform the hangar into ATWIND Stadium for a Whiffle ball tournament and other family activities, including more than \$2,000 in prizes (see page 4). Oh, by the way, it's free!

From Mega-Week to Air Expeditionary Force swap-outs to the recent Inspector General Exercise, the pace at Travis has been predictably frantic, so we need to make the most of these opportunities to bring our families together as a base community. The annual picnic was fun even when we were sweating it out the past two years outdoors. Now that we've moved everything into the shade, the event should be that much more enjoyable.

Also, don't forget our annual **Delta Breeze Club membership drive**, which started Wednesday. Last year, we added the most new members of any drive in Air Force history, and there's no reason we can't turn in another impressive performance this year! There are FIVE new cars up from grabs among those current and new club members who choose to enter the drawing. Team Travis members have won cars the past two years, so let's make it a three-peat!

Our club is the BEST in the Air Force...not that I'm bragging! I guess if you choose not to have fun, pay the surcharge every time you attend a club event, miss out on coupons valued at more than your dues and miss the chance to meet me and General Kelly on Friday night, that's your loss!

On second thought, you probably have a very good reason why



Kristina Cilla / Visual Information

Brig. Gen. Thomas Kane, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander, takes the flag from Capt. Juliana Quiroz, 349th AMW Honor Guard during a mass retreat ceremony Aug. 10 at wing headquarters. For more information on the Honor Guard, turn to page 20.

you want to spend your precious dollars frivolously elsewhere. That's OK, because the place is pretty crowded most nights, and the rest of us — especially some of the greatest retirees in the world — love winning the Tuesday cash drawing!

For all you lieutenants: if you want to pay premium price when your commander invites you to accompany him or her to an Airman Leadership School Graduation or other event, and miss out on the lowest LT dues in the Air Force, it's really OK! Otherwise, remember the secret password to get your reduced dues — just tell them you are an LT!

For all the great retirees in the area: thank you ALL for your staunch support and for joining Buck and Frank to make noise with the rest of us! If you still aren't convinced, come to the club on Wednesday Karaoke night around 10:45 p.m. If you don't hear Frank Sinatra, Elvis of Barry White, then I'll give you a special wristband worth several free items!

So quit making excuses, and come join the rest of us at OUR club! I promise you and your family will be glad you did!

OK, I'll conclude this week by reminding everyone to stay safe, enjoy the summer and your family during the lulls in action. Remember, our daily missions and priorities like affordable housing will demand your continued attention over the long-term. Focus on what's best for Team Travis.

With the right attitude and effort, the best decision any commander can make is to stay out of your way and let your excellence shine through! God bless you ALL and thanks for making

ACTION LINE

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE

Call the Action Line at 424-3333

I can't see

Q I'm just a little concerned about the evergreens near the exit of the commissary parking lot. As you look to the left, you can't see any traffic coming. I think something lower should be planted there, or there is going to be an accident.

A The evergreens by the commissary parking lot entrance are a hazard and have been trimmed.

A This will eliminate the hazard and increase visibility for people leaving the commissary. The 60th Support Group is also working to identify any other intersections on the base where landscaping may become a safety hazard.

South Gate concerns

Q I just wanted to ask a question about the South Gate. I've noticed that the gate is now open from 6 to 8 a.m. in the morning. I would like to know what it would take to get it to stay open past 8 a.m., until about 8:15 or 8:30 a.m. There are employees here at Travis who sometimes do not get off until 8 a.m. in the morning.

A Although the South Gate closes at 8 a.m., it is the 60th Security Forces Squadron's standard procedure to keep the gate open for an additional 15 minutes as a courtesy to those drivers running behind schedule. If employees are consistently missing the window for shift changes the morning and afternoon gate hours are designed to capture, please discuss a revision in work schedules with your immediate supervisor.

Why the charge?

Q I have been to eight different bases throughout my 18-year career, and I have never been charged to store a recreational vehicle or trailer in the base storage lot. If an individual is on active duty and lives in base housing, the storage lot should be free

since it is base policy not to have trailers or RVs parked in the housing area for extended periods of time. I'm sure with the resale lot and long-term parking lot, Services makes enough money to cover any cost they incur to help fund the equipment and other requirements for the storage lots. Can you please address the policy of charging base housing residents a monthly lot fee?

A Storage lot fees seem to be the norm for the majority of bases we contacted. In your case, your previous base of assignment did not charge a fee to base residents when you were there but has since instituted a fee equal to the one charged at Travis. At \$10 per month, the rate at Travis and Dover AFB are the second-lowest in Air Mobility Command. Grand Forks charges \$5 per month, but you would pay more to store an RV or trailer at Andrews, Fairchild, MacDill, McChord, McConnell, McGuire, Pope and Scott, and you couldn't store an RV at Charleston. As far as bases outside AMC, we contacted Hill, Hurlburt, Kirtland, Lackland and Peterson. All charge more than Travis except Hill, which charges the same rate. You would pay more than six times the Travis rate for a parking space off base.

Tailwind

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs Office at Travis AFB, Calif. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

Correspondence may be sent to: 60th AMW/PA; 400 Brennan Circle; Travis AFB, CA 94535-5005, faxed to 424-3506 or emailed to tailwind@travis.af.mil. Deadline for copy is 4:30 p.m. Friday for the following Friday's issue. Swap Ads must be brought to Bldg. 51 by noon Monday for possible print in that Friday's issue. Emailed or faxed Swap Ads will not be accepted.

For information on paid advertising and on-base circulation, call (707) 425-4646. Correspondence may be sent to: Daily Republic; 1250 Texas St.; Fairfield, CA 94533 or faxed to (707) 425-5924.



Kristina Cilla / Visual Information

ON THE COVER:

The Honor Guard practices its military funeral skills Aug. 10 in front of wing headquarters.

Danger! Danger! Danger!

Awareness critical for package bomb threats

By SrA Jennifer Andrews
60th AMW Public Affairs

Earlier this month, a sergeant was critically injured by a package bomb at Lackland AFB, Texas. The bomb, which exploded in the sergeant's hands, went off at 11:15 a.m. in the 342nd Training Squadron's headquarters building.

"Bombs aren't necessarily going to be directed at the wing commander," said MSgt. Phil Tucker, 60th Security Forces Squadron anti-terrorism division. "It could be headed toward anyone, whether it be an officer, NCO or airman."

While base officials say this type of accident hasn't happened at Travis, they are encouraging Travis personnel and families to increase their awareness levels at home and work.

"One indicator of a suspicious package is if the package feels uneven or lopsided," said MSgt. Joe Bean, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal team. "Or if you can hear sloshing liquid, be suspicious."

Other tips to look for when receiving packages are:

- » An unusual or unknown place of origin.
- » No return address.
- » An excessive amount of postage.
- » Abnormal or unusual size.
- » Oily stains on the package.
- » Wires or strings protrud-

ing from or attached to an item.

- » Incorrect spelling on the package label.
- » Differing return address and postmark.
- » Appearance of poorly legible handwriting.
- » Peculiar odor. (Many explosives used by terrorists smell like shoe polish or almonds.)
- » Unusual heaviness or lightness.
- » Springiness in the top, bottom or sides.

If you receive a suspicious package:

- » Never cut tape, strings or other wrappings on a suspect package or immerse a suspected letter or package in water. Either action could cause an explosive device to detonate.
- » Never touch or move a suspicious package or letter.
- » Report any suspicious packages or mail to security officials immediately.

"If you're not expecting a package and you don't know who it's from, be cautious," Bean said. "If it looks suspicious, don't open it. Evacuate the immediate area and call Security Forces. It's better to be safe than sorry."

Base officials concede that while not every strange package received is linked to terrorism, Travis personnel and their families should use caution and trust their instincts.

"Sometimes threats can turn out to be hoaxes," Tucker said. "But we have to stay alert, pay attention to detail and not get

complacent."

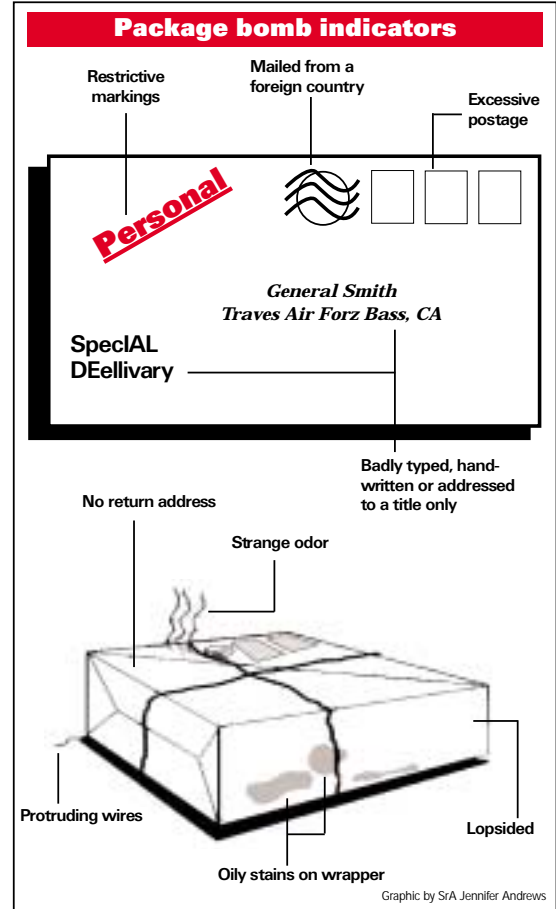
One way Travis personnel have become complacent is with their over-reliance on the 60th Communications Squadron's Base Information Transfer Center (BITC).

"We are trained in how to spot a possible package and properly report it to Command Post, Security Forces and EOD after we evacuate the building or area. Unit mailrooms are also trained in the same procedures," said SSgt. Tina Sagmoe, 60th Communications Squadron. "However, package bombs do not have to come through the Postal Service or BITC. Package bombs could also come from a malicious person walking in off the street and setting the package down on an unaware victim's desk. People need to remember to stay vigilant against terrorist acts."

While base officials urge Travis personnel and their families to be aware of their surroundings and packages delivered, the probability of receiving a package bomb are rare.

According to Sagmoe, last year, the USPS received 11 letter bomb scares out of approximately 13 billion pieces of mail. Only three proved to be true threats.

While the chance of receiving a letter or package bomb is extremely low, both the USPS and all BITC offices stay vigilant and have procedures in place in case one is encountered.



Graphic by SrA Jennifer Andrews

Dorms prepare residents for one-day spruce up Sept. 15

By SrA Jennifer Andrews
60th AMW Public Affairs

Base officials are planning an all-dorm landscaping day to clear out bark and weeds Sept. 15.

The bark will be replaced with landscaping rock.

"Airmen are constantly cleaning and weeding to keep the dorms looking nice," said Command CMSgt. Dan Johnson, 60th Air Mobility Wing. "This will cut down on the overall workload for airmen who work as bay orderlies."

In order to complete the renovation in one day, base officials plan to have the majority of dorm residents doing the work.

"By getting all of the dorm residents out in force, it cuts down the amount of time spent on the project," Johnson said.

Base officials also addressed the concern of swing shift and grave shift workers. Squadron commanders will determine what work mid-shift workers and grave-shift workers will complete for the renovation.

Support Group plans Readiness Day

By SrA Jennifer Andrews
60th AMW Public Affairs

The 60th Support Group is scheduling a Readiness Day for all squadrons that fall under the group.

On Aug. 28, the SPTG plans to exercise and test the group and unit pyramid emergency notification system, enhance deployment preparations for Air Expeditionary Force 7 and 8, and provide an opportunity for SPTG units to catch up or get ahead of their readiness training curves.

Other training may include Law of Armed Conflict, family support issues, personnel line-processing, combat arms training, self-aid buddy care, force

During Readiness Day, Support Group squadrons will be minimally manned. Customers may experience minor delays.

protection and computer security training.

In addition to overall training, the individual squadrons also plan on having squadron-specific training.

Those who already have the majority of the training completed or are up-to-date with training will participate in base beautification.

The Base Exchange, parking lots and islands will be areas targeted during the spruce-up. Other high profile areas will be

targeted as well, according to SPTG officials.

During the Readiness Day, the SPTG will be minimally manned; however, essential tasks will still be completed. Customers may experience some delays.

Entry gate operations should not be affected. The Military Personnel Flight will also be running, but customers may experience longer waiting periods and delays. The dining facilities may experience large crowds between 6 to 7:30 a.m., so SPTG officials are urging people to take advantage of other dining areas. The Terminal food court opens at 5 a.m., Burger King opens at 6:30 a.m., and the Base Exchange Bakery opens at 6:30 a.m.

NEWS NOTES

Wash it up

Civil Engineering's Electrical Distribution Shop will be performing its annual high-voltage insulator washing starting Saturday and running through Aug. 26. The high-voltage insulators are required to be washed each year to minimize arcing on the 60,000 volt transmission line. Insulators stung along Burgan, Hangar and Hickam avenues will be washed, as well as at the three substations. All base personnel who park their vehicles around high-voltage transmission poles in these areas will find dirt on their vehicles. Only water and no chemicals will be used to perform the work. For more information, contact the Civil Engineering Production Control office at 424-2575.

NCO induction

The Travis NCO induction ceremony is scheduled for Sept. 4 at 3 p.m. in the Travis Conference Center. Individuals sewing on staff sergeant in the months of July, August and September will be inducted. Uniform for the inductees is service dress with all ribbons. Individuals must report to the conference center by 1 p.m. For more information, contact SMSgt. Charlotte Branum at 424-7801 or contact your unit first sergeant.

Facility managers

The 60th Civil Engineer Squadron is scheduled to hold its quarterly facility managers meeting at the Travis Conference Center Wednesday at 1 p.m. The mandatory training is a requirement for all current and new facility managers, and attendance will be taken. For more information, contact SSgt. Beckett at 424-1127.

Local 1764 picnic

The American Federation of Government Employees Local 1764 will be holding its union picnic Thursday at Eucalyptus Park starting at 11 a.m. Leaders and dignitaries from the union are flying in to attend the picnic and to be on hand to answer any questions. All employees who work on Travis are invited to come out and enjoy the free lunch and festivities.

SATE meeting

The semi-annual Security, Awareness, Training and Education meeting is scheduled for Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. in the 6th Air Refueling Squadron auditorium, Bldg. 181. SATE managers are required to attend. For more information, call SrA Miles Flinn at 424-5949.



Courtesy Photo

Photos of ATWIND activities, like this one from Vandenberg AFB, Calif., can earn cash prizes in the Air Mobility Command Around the World in Ninety Days Photo Contest. Check out www.atwind.com for more details.

Picnic prizes

Contests add tailgate flavor to Family Fun Day in Hangar 818

60th Services Squadron

More than \$2,000 in prizes will be given away at the ATWIND Family Fun Day in Hangar 818 Aug. 24.

The Fun Day culminates the summer-long promotion where the weekly Travis ATWIND Prize Patrol gave away hundreds of prizes. However, the prizes this day aren't just for individuals. Squadrons can get into the race for prizes too.

"ATWIND and the Prize Patrol are doing what they were intended to do," said Stephen Pierce, ATWIND coordinator. "The goal was to increase the exposure of the different quality-of-life services available at Travis — from the Family Support Center to the Cypress Lakes Golf Course — and it has more than reached that goal."

"Now it is time to have fun," Pierce added.

The squadron that sports the winning whiffle ball team gets \$250 for their booster club. A squadron can get \$100 in Services Bucks if they have the winning team in the Human Bowling Ball competition. The Services Bucks can be used by the squadron toward its next bowling function at the Travis Bowl.

Individuals can walk away

with a large bounty as well:

- The Home Run Derby champion receives \$100 cash and \$100 in Services Bucks.

- Each member of the winning three-person team in the Human Bowling Ball competition receives \$25 cash and \$25 in Services Bucks.

- Winning teams in the Chicken Eating Contest receive a free Sunday Brunch at the Delta Breeze Club. The overall top team also receives \$25 in cash and \$25 in Services Bucks for each team member.

- Several sponsors will also hold drawings for more than \$1,000 in prizes.

For more information, or to sign up for the chicken wing contest or the human bowling ball competition, call 424-5470.

To sign up for the whiffle ball tournament or the home run derby, call 424-2008.

Free food, a dozen old Ford Mustangs, live music and children's activities round out the picnic. On the menu are bratwurst, hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken wings, chips, soda and yogurt sticks. On the stage will be the Air Force Band of the Golden West, Crossfire and SMG. Children's activities include face painting and the interactive Action Shack.



ATWIND TAILGATE PARTY

Register for more than \$1,000 in prizes at the booths of the following ATWIND sponsors — **Sprint:** PCS phone, beach blankets, inflatable kites. **USAA:** \$200 Savings Bond.

Sam's Club: \$100 shopping spree.

Coca-Cola: Millennium Edition Coke Light. **Ron DuPratt Ford:** Free oil changes. Other prizes are also in the works.

Individuals and squadrons can get involved in the four competitions that lead to cash prizes. The Great Whiffle Ball Tournament, Home Run Derby, Chicken Wing Eating Contest and the Human Bowling Ball Competition equal a prize bounty of nearly \$900. Call 424-5470 to sign up for the chicken wing and bowling competitions. Call 424-2008 to sign up for the whiffle ball tournament and

PLAY ATWIND EVERYDAY

Participate in these activities and receive one ATWIND game piece.

MONDAY

- Eat lunch at Gatsby's Grill at the Cypress Lakes Golf Course.
- Each paid golfing participant at Cypress Lakes Golf Course earns one game piece.
- All day, any purchase at the Pizzeria.

TUESDAY

- Lunch at the Bowling Center
- Attend storytime at 9:30 a.m. at Mitchell Memorial Library.
- Try your skills on the climbing wall at Outdoor Rec.
- Workout at either the Fitness Center or Exercise Center.
- Participate in a water aerobics class at the Base Pool and earn a game piece.

WEDNESDAY

- Lunch at the Pizzeria.
- Play Wednesday night bingo at the Delta Breeze Club.
- Bring a friend to Karaoke night at the Delta Breeze Club and each participant earns one game piece.
- Authorized youth 17 or younger can golf for \$5 at Cypress Lakes Golf Course.
- All day, any purchase at Cypress Lakes.

THURSDAY

- Eat lunch at the Delta Breeze

Club.

- Check out one or more books at the Mitchell Memorial Library. Participants must be present to earn game piece.
- Participate in an aerobics class at Exercise Center.
- All day, any purchase at Bowling Center.

FRIDAY

- Eat lunch at the Sierra Inn or Golden Hills.
- Eat dinner at Mike's Place, Travis Sailing Center
- Go skating at the Skating Rink.
- All day, any purchase at Delta Breeze Club.

SATURDAY

- "Traditions" night dining at the Delta Breeze Club
- Each paid youth, age 17 or younger, who bowls at the Bowling Center.
- Each paid swimmer at the Base Pool earns a game piece.
- Each paid user of the Auto Hobby Shop, Frame Shop or Wood Shop earns a game piece.

SUNDAY

- Eat Sunday Brunch at the Delta Breeze Club.

9999-0011-111

Everybody can register this introductory game piece number at www.atwind.com or by calling (888) 597-9960.

Raising the bar in Southwest Asia

Travis medics perform at the tip of the sword

By Capt. Mark Bollwitt
320th Expeditionary Medical Flight

The sun comes up at 5:15 a.m. The thermometer reads 88 degrees in this "coolest" time of the day. Many are already up at Eskan Village, starting their daily exercise before the temperature hits the 90's by mid-morning, on its way to 115 degrees by afternoon. So begins another day for our medical team deployed to the desert of Saudi Arabia.

The team of 23 physicians, nurses, dentists, medical technicians and other support staff from the 60th Medical Group arrived in Saudi Arabia in early June. As part of the 320th Air Expeditionary Group, they are assigned to provide routine and contingency medical support for Joint Task Force-Southwest Asia and Army Central Command.

The 320th Medical Flight Commander, Col. Larry D. Anderson, said, "We did not know each other before we left Travis, but I cannot think of another group of people I would rather serve with."

The clinic functions as a small emergency room or urgent care facility, seeing about 400 patients each month. Maj. Kelly West, chief of Clinical Services, and the emergency response teams have treated patients with traumatic injuries and chronic illnesses. They have also transported patients with acute appendicitis and heart attacks to local hospitals for specialty care.

Prevention and treatment of heat-related illness is a primary concern for the group commander and the clinic, Anderson said. "Every effort is made to educate airmen and soldiers on caring for themselves in this environment. Public health and medical teams recently combined forces to locate and eradicate an outbreak of acute gastroenteritis, which threatened the group's readiness capability," he said.

MSgt. Richard K. Cox, clinic first sergeant, said, "I am truly amazed at the way our people have pulled together to make one cohesive team. 'One Fight, One Team, One Win' is definitely the way the medical staff performs every day."

Cox said in addition to the daily clinic functions, team members train extensively on treatment of mass casualties in the event of an accident or terrorist attack. Due to the small team size, many technicians have stepped up to learn duties well outside their normal scope at David Grant Medical Center. For most of the team's junior members, this is their first deployment, and the training opportunities abound.

Life in Eskan Village itself may be austere



Courtesy photo

Medics from Travis make sure a patient is handled in a safe manner. The medics have been assigned to OSW since June.

by stateside standards, but most deployed members are grateful they landed in this renovated Bedouin village rather than some other sites in the area of responsibility. The village was originally built by the Saudi government to house wandering tribesmen, but was soon abandoned by people who preferred tents and open spaces to air-conditioned villas. The project was loaned to U.S. servicemembers during Operation Desert Storm, when more than 10,000 troops were stationed with in its concrete walls. Since then, it has provided work and living space for Joint Task Force-Southwest Asia military advisors and support personnel sustaining Operation Southern Watch.

The local gold and carpet markets are favorite shopping spots on this deployment, and an Olympic-size pool at Eskan Village serves as a retreat from the 60-hour work week and an escape from the desert heat.

The 320th AEG Services Flight makes every effort to bring a bit of home and relaxation to off-duty personnel through organized sports, bazaars and other activities.

The motto of the 320th Expeditionary Medical Flight is "Best Medical Care in the Desert Air," and the men and women of the 60th Medical Group continue working hard to try to keep that promise.

911 DELIVERY

U.S. postal employee saves Travis home from possible kitchen blaze

By SSgt. Mark Diamond
60th AMW Public Affairs

On Aug. 1, U.S. Postal Service employee Derek Norman was delivering express mail in Travis base housing.

He said he had delivered to that area before, so he knew what to expect ... or at least he thought he knew what to expect.

"As I was walking up to the home to deliver the package, I smelled something burning," said Norman.

He said as he got closer to the home, the smell got stronger.

When a knock on the door wasn't answered, Norman said

his first thought was to check the back yard in case the family was simply barbecuing. But when he didn't find a barbecue and returned to the front of the house, he said the smell of smoke was even stronger.

He immediately contacted a neighbor to verify the smell and call 911.

The fire department responded, gained entry into the home and discovered a pot burning on the stovetop.

"The fire department told me they had to knock the door down," said Norman.

He also said he was told by fire department officials that, had he not discovered the soon-to-be blaze, the house would

have caught fire and would have been burning in about 15 minutes.

But the fact that he likely saved a base home from burning to the ground doesn't mean Norman is patting himself on the back. He's being modest about the incident.

"I would do it for anyone," said the postal employee. "Even if I wasn't working and I was just casually walking down the street [and smelled the smoke], I would have helped out."

He said his act wasn't about recognition, but about helping people.

Norman said no thanks are necessary, he's just glad the home didn't burn down.

HOMETOWN NEWS RELEASES

Fill out the Department of Defense Form 2266 and bring it in to the Public Affairs Office in Bldg. 51, Room 232.

*Phone numbers to know***Hospital Info**

423-7300

Lodging

437-8000

Military Personnel

424-2276

Family Support

424-2486

Legal

424-3251

Housing Maintenance

437-1230

Contracting

424-7711

Security Forces

424-3293

ITT

424-0969

Passenger Terminal

424-1854

A sharper Air Force

AF testing new uniforms for men

Air Force Print News

Seeing a significant increase in tailoring costs, and based on feedback from the field, the Air Force is currently testing athletic-cut uniforms for men.

"In the past few years, we had noticed a 142 percent increase in tailoring costs at basic training to accommodate men with athletic-type builds," said MSgt. Ruth Nischwitz, chief of the Air Force uniform board office. "We also were getting questions and comments about the uniform fit from athletic-built second-term and career airmen."

The test started in July and is projected to end in March.

Participants are testing the service jacket and trousers, Nischwitz said. There are also plans to include men's shirts in the test program.

For the test phase, uniform designers enlarged the upper torso, chest, neck and biceps and decreased the waist for the service jackets. Additionally, the thighs and seat areas were increased on the trousers, while the waists were made smaller, Nischwitz said.

According to program managers at the Air Force Clothing Office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, participants will evaluate the garments' appearance, comfort, fit and suitability.

During this phase, participants will focus on wearing and maintaining these uniforms. Data gathered from the test will be used to confirm the suitability of the new sizes, validate size prediction charts and update procurement documents, said program managers Yvonne Wilson and Debra Klensch.

Although the current test applies only to the men's uniform, the clothing office may possibly expand the test to include the women's uniform.

Based on the participants' feedback and suggestions, the items would eventually be placed in clothing sales stores for purchase, Nischwitz said.

"I've always believed a team evolves into what you equip and envision them to be, he said. "If you want a fit force, arm them with uniforms that fit that image."

President nominates AMC commander

Air Mobility Command News Service

President George W. Bush nominated Air Force Gen. John W. Handy to be the next commander-in-chief of U.S. Transportation Command and commander of Air Mobility Command in Washington Aug. 6.

If confirmed by the Senate, Handy will succeed Air Force Gen. Charles T. "Tony" Robertson. General Handy is currently the U.S. Air Force vice chief of staff.

This will mark a return to both organizations; General Handy served as USTRANSCOM's director of operations and logistics from 1993 to 1995 and commander of AMC's Tanker Airlift Control Center from 1991 to 1993.

General Handy holds a bachelor's degree from Methodist College and a master's degree from the University of Southern California. He is also a graduate of the Air War College and National War College, as well as the Program for Senior Executives at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

He is a command pilot with more than 4,800 hours flown in the C-130, C-7A, C-141, C-9, KC-10 and C-17.

General Handy's awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Antarctica Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Philippine Presidential Unit Citation and Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, among others.

General Robertson will retire. He has served concurrently as USTRANSCOM CINC and AMC commander since September 1998.



HANDY

It's just not acceptable

VIEWPOINT

SMSgt. Cynthia Solomito

First sergeant, 60th APS

People are the Air Force's number one resource. They're also a commander's number one resource in getting the mission accomplished. We entrust our people to work on equipment that's worth millions of dollars, and sometimes it's a unique piece that can't be replaced.

Unfortunately, sometimes there are indicators in the unit that cause a commander to worry about the overall readiness of his or her squadron. It could be a rash of accidents, an increase of dormitory incidents such as underage drinking, fighting or an upward trend of drug usage on or around the base. What can a commander do if he or she is not sure the mission can be accomplished? What can a commander do if he or she is not sure about the overall readiness of the unit?

The Air Force is cracking down hard on drug usage. The policy is pretty clear, "Substance abuse is incompatible with the maintenance of the high standards required of Air Force personnel and will not be tolerated!" Upper leadership is just as concerned with our readiness as our squadron commanders. The random urinalysis program has been around for quite a few years, and it's getting better and better. Right now samples are tested for many substances to include cocaine, marijuana, PC, amphetamines, PCP and opiates. Samples are also tested for LSD and barbiturates. But random testing isn't enough. There are several other programs commanders can use.

Travis has taken some aggressive steps to deter drug usage and ensure we are fit to fight. Dormitory residents are very familiar with the random dorm inspections the first sergeants, commanders, legal officers and law enforcement agencies have conducted. Rumors around the base call the inspections "shake-downs" or "raids," but they're actually inspections. The reason we have inspections is to examine persons, property or premises for the primary purpose of determining and ensuring the security, military fitness or good order and discipline of the command. After the first two inspections, wing leadership decided to expand the inspection process.

Recently a program called Operation Nighthawk was implemented. It's another random program in place to examine the fitness and readiness of our base. Nighthawk expanded the inspections to include all active duty members, not just dorm residents. How does Nighthawk work? A date and time are randomly selected during which every vehicle entering the gate is pulled over. Military members are then given a direct order to provide a sample.

Programs like these are successful because of the teamwork and the professionalism displayed by the entire unit. No one is happy to be recalled at all hours of the night, but I will say that we received several comments asking why it took so long before we did the inspection. Remember, the primary purpose of these programs isn't to catch anyone doing illegal activities. The purpose is to let everyone know that we have a mission to accomplish and we need every single member of our unit healthy and able to work.

It's a tough world we live in these days, and military members make great targets. We depend on each other to perform our mission in a safe manner. So when confronted with the choice of using drugs...don't be selfish and use them. Your choice impacts us all! Take care of yourselves and each other!



NEED A RIDE?

If you are in no condition to drive, use the Dial-a-Ride program. Telephone numbers for participating taxi companies are:

Fairfield Taxi:

422-5555

Yellow Cab of Vacaville:

446-1144

Yellow Cab of Sacramento:

916-442-4696

Calling a cab is a better option than the alternatives.



SSgt. Mark Diamond/60th AMW Public Affairs

Leonda Hansel, Vacaville resident and wife of a retired master sergeant, thanks DeCA and Milk-Bone for giving her the 'gift of a lifetime.'

DeCA, Milk-Bone team up, give vaca woman 'gift of a lifetime'

By SSgt. Mark Diamond
60th AMW Public Affairs

If you purchased a Milk-Bone product at the Travis Commissary in May, chances are you helped a Vacaville resident get a dog.

The Defense Commissary Agency recently teamed up with Milk-Bone to provide a canine assistant to four military customers. Vacaville resident Leonda Hansel was one of the lucky few.

Hansel — the wife of a retired Air Force master sergeant — has multiple sclerosis and uses a walker and an electric scooter for mobility. Although it is difficult for her to perform many common tasks, she said her new service dog will provide the help and independence she needs.

Among other tasks, her dog will assist with retrieving objects, opening doors, turning lights on and off, and obtaining help in case of an emergency. Hansel, who has four children and four grandchildren, said she looks forward to the companionship of a service dog and

the added confidence her new best friend will offer.

The service dogs are being provided by Canine Assistants, a non-profit organization that trains dogs to assist children and adults with physical disabilities or other special needs. Canine Assistants-dogs are either rescued young adult dogs or puppies raised at their facilities.

During a ceremony Tuesday at the Travis Commissary, representatives from DeCA and Kraft Foods presented Hansel with a certificate, a photo of two canine "assistants" in training, along with a Canine Assistants T-shirt.

Also on hand during the ceremony was Matthew Paulson, a recipient of a canine assistant, and his one-and-a-half-year-old Golden Retriever, Storm. Paulson and Storm were present on behalf of the Canine Assistants organization to discuss and demonstrate the many benefits of his dog.

Paulson — who was united with Storm earlier this year — said the dog has made a huge difference in his life.

Although Hansen didn't

leave Tuesday's ceremony with a pup by her side, her actual service dog will be chosen at the Canine Assistants training camp she will attend later this year, and will be selected to meet her specific needs.

"We are very honored that Travis is one of the sites chosen for the Canine Assistant presentation," DeCA representative Ron Rogers said during Tuesday's ceremony. "One of the things DeCA does is take care of our military families, so this is a real pleasure."

"I'd like to thank the Defense Commissary Agency and Milk-Bone," added Hansel. "If not for their generosity, I would not be receiving this gift of a lifetime. I really appreciate everything they're doing for me."

Milk-Bone's partnership with DeCA is part of a nation-wide effort to sponsor Canine Assistants service dogs for people in need.

Throughout May, 25 cents from every Milk-Bone product purchased at DeCA commissaries was contributed to make this sponsorship possible.

Fire safety is everyone's concern

By 60th Civil Engineer Squadron

The number of people killed in house fires started by candles has skyrocketed over the past 20 years. Deaths from all residential fires in the United States fell from 4,500 in 1980 to 2,660 in 1998, but candle-related fire deaths rose from 20 to 170 during the same time period. In most cases, unattended candles caused those fatal fires.

Home fires dropped from 655,000 in 1980 to 332,300 in 1998, while home fires started by candles increased from 8,500 to 12,900. Nearly half (44 percent) of candle fires start in bedrooms with mattresses or other bedding as the most likely items to go up in flames. Children playing with or near candles are a frequent cause of candle fires.

Candles caused an annual average of 8,690 fires, 104 deaths, 948 injuries, and \$128.6 million in damage.

Where do candle fires start?

- » 44 percent started in the bedroom
- » 19 percent started in living rooms, family rooms, or dens
- » 11 percent started in bathrooms
- » Seven percent began in kitchens
- » Four percent started in dining rooms
- » 15 percent started in closets, in carports, garages, crawl spaces, and on balconies

How do they start?

- » 36 percent of home candle fires occurred because candles were unattended, abandoned or

inadequately controlled.

- » 18 percent occurred because some form of combustible material was left too close to the candles.

- » 9 percent were caused by children playing with candles.

- » Five percent started when the occupant fell asleep while the candle was burning.

- » 11 percent were caused by misuse of candles.

- » 21 percent was suspicious, unclassified, or other unknown ignition factors.

How do we prevent?

- » Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.

- » Keep candles away from items that can catch fire such as clothing, books, paper, curtains, Christmas trees, combustible decorations or anything that burns.

- » Make sure candles are placed on a secure piece of furniture in sturdy holders that won't tip over. Holders should be made of material that can't burn.

- » Make sure the candleholder is big enough to hold all wax drippings.

- » Don't place candles in windows, where blinds or curtains can close over them.

- » Don't place candles where they can be knocked over by children or pets.

- » Keep up high and out of reach of children.

- » Never leave a child unattended in a room with a candle. A child should never sleep in a room with a lit candle.

- » Keep all matches and lighters up high and out of reach of children.



Air Force photo

Gas and go: A self-portrait of an F-16D Fighting Falcon backseater during an aerial refueling by a KC-135 Stratotanker from the 22nd Air Refueling Wing at McConnell AFB, Kan. Visible behind the crewmember's head is the refueling boom and tail section of the KC-135. The F-16 is assigned to the 78th Fighter Squadron at Shaw AFB, S.C.

Camping tips: Learn to safely start a campfire, and avoid animals and other outdoor dangers

Now that the summer weather has returned, many Travis people are hitting the road to catch up on some overdue summertime camping.

Here are some tips to help you safely build a campfire and avoid other camping dangers.

How to start a campfire

1. Where permitted, gather firewood. You want to collect everything from dry leaves and twigs, to small sticks, to branches 2 to 4 inches in diameter.

2. If a fire ring is not already available, clear an area that's away from any trees or brush.

3. Place a small pile of dry leaves and twigs in the center of the fire ring.

4. Build a tepee of small sticks around these dry leaves and twigs.

5. Next, build a square wall of larger sticks around, and up

to the height of, the tepee.

6. Place more sticks across the walls to cover the tepee.

7. Add another wall of larger branches, but do not cover the top.

8. Drop a match or two into the dry leaves and twigs until they catch fire.

9. As the fire begins to spread, add some larger branches across the top, being careful not to collapse the existing walls of the fire. Continue to add larger branches to keep the campfire going.

How to extinguish a campfire

1. After most of the wood has burned up, stir the charcoals and ashes with a long stick.

2. Slowly pour some water over the remaining charcoals and ashes.

3. Stir the wet ashes. Repeat as necessary.

Helpful campfire tips

1. Don't build a bonfire; campfires do not have to be large to be enjoyable.

2. Do not use flammable liquids — such as charcoal lighter fluid, gas or kerosene — to start a fire.

3. Do not burn "green" wood if it has too much sap and will burn slowly and pop. Also, do not cut any wood from standing trees.

4. Be careful when pouring water on the fire as this may cause smoke and ashes to rise, which can be harmful to your eyes and lungs.

5. Never leave a campfire unattended. Make sure all campfires are extinguished before leaving the campsite.

Animal encounters

If a bear can hear you and

smell you, it will tend to get out of the way and let you pass without you knowing it was close by. The exception is if you are carrying fish or lots of sweets in your pack, or if you are wearing heavy, sweet deodorants or makeup. All three are bear attractants.

Anytime you travel in the backcountry you may encounter wild animals such as bears, bobcats, deer, coyotes or mountain lions (pumas).

Most of these animals are more afraid of people than people are afraid of them.

However, you should still take precautions not to provoke them, especially bears.

There have been some bear/human confrontations in wilderness areas.

Hungry bears may walk through camps and pick up food and packs. They may rip things apart if they smell food, destroying property and terrorizing people.

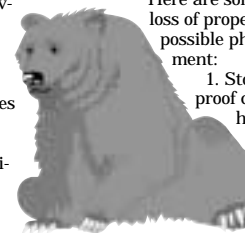
Avoiding danger

Here are some tips to avoid loss of property and avoid possible physical endangerment:

1. Store food in odor-proof containers, and hang all food higher than a bear's head (about 8 feet or higher) and counterbalance for further protection.

2. At night, keep food away from packs and people.

3. If a bear approaches your camp, shout, whistle or bang spoons on cups and pans to try to scare the bear away.



Programs reduce attrition rates across the services

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**
American Forces Press Service

Recruit attrition rates are dropping across the services thanks to programs that try to prepare enlistees for the rigors of basic training before they ship out and revamped training policies.

All the services report increased use of delayed entry programs in recent years. DEPs acclimate recruits, enhance their performance and decrease washouts.

"We tell our recruiters to try to put enlistees into the delayed entry program to keep them better informed. They come ready to go to basic training," said Ed Castillo, a public affairs officer at the 37th Training Wing, Lackland AFB, San Antonio.

DoD officials keenly watch recruit attrition numbers, especially since the cost of recruiting new service members averages about \$11,000 each — some \$3,000 more than just a few years ago, said Navy Cmdr. Yvette BrownWahler, director for recruiting plans, Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Combined with an average cost of initial entry training at \$35,000, DoD's investment in military recruit accessions and training is enormous, since more than 200,000 of America's youth are recruited for active military service each year, she added.

Castillo noted that the Air Force's recruit attrition rate dropped from 8.8 percent in fiscal 1999 to 7.1 percent so far this year. The Air Force's delayed entry program, he said, is responsible for much of that success.

The services report that most recruits fail to complete basic training for medical reasons, including injuries and previously undisclosed physical or mental conditions, and other performance-related issues.

Castillo said recruits who sign up for DEP are usually high school students who might not report for basic training for up to a year after enlistment. During that time participants "meet with the recruiter once a month, sometimes more," he said.

DEP recruits receive a basic training booklet and watch videotapes on drill and ceremony, military customs, wear and care for military uniforms, and more, Castillo said. People who are out of shape join supervised exercise programs, he added.

"By the time they get to basic training, they're ready to go," Castillo said, adding that DEP participants also learn the military doesn't tolerate drug use.

The Marines' DEP program has helped to reduce recruit attrition rates, said Maj. Rob Winchester, public affairs officer at Marine Corps Recruiting Command, Quantico, Va. Marine

Corps officials say recruit attrition went from 15.5 percent in 1998 down to 11.7 percent thus far in 2001.

"Our recruiters are spending the time with DEP participants to prepare them mentally and physically for recruit training. We start instilling our core values of honor, courage and commitment," Winchester said.

DoD also attributes the drop in recruit attrition rates to modified basic training programs across the services, BrownWahler said, coupled with "a renewed emphasis by drill instructors to imbue soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines with a positive attitude in preparing them to be a part of the service team."

The Navy's recruit attrition rate in 1998 was about 17 percent; now it is about 14 percent, said Carl Ross, chief of staff of training at the Naval Training Center Great Lakes, north of Chicago. He credits the reduction to the effectiveness of the Navy DEP, but also to revamped boot camp training policies.

Navy recruits are evaluated for physical condition and classroom skills, such as reading comprehension, upon arrival at boot camp, Ross said.

Those who need physical or academic preparation receive appropriate training before they tackle the general curriculum.

Ross remarked that recruits in poor physical condition are often too tired to absorb lessons taught during classroom instruction.

"The idea is to individualize the boot camp experience so most everyone can meet Navy standards," he said. "Primarily, it is working because we are not superimposing additional stress factors."

Army officials say recruit attrition has dropped from 19.7 percent in 1998 to around 13.6 percent today. Recruits who successfully complete DEP programs have proven to be more likely to complete initial entry training, an Army Recruiting Command official said.

Army officials also remarked that drill instructors want recruits to meet basic training standards and won't let recruits give up on themselves.

The Army's New Start program, for example, provides additional training for recruits who fail to meet standards after remedial training.

"Given additional time," recruits in New Start "are able to complete training and become productive soldiers," according to Army documents.

After recruits report to the Parris Island, S.C., or San Diego depots, Marine drill instructors provide them every opportunity to succeed, said Maj. Bryan Salas, Parris Island depot public affairs officer.

"It is more challenging to train a recruit," Salas said. Attrition is "the easy way out."

"We tell our recruiters to try to put enlistees into the delayed entry program to keep them better informed. They come ready to go to basic training."

Ed Castillo

Public affairs officer, 37th Training Wing, Lackland AFB

GOT AN INTERESTING STORY IDEA?
Call 424-2011.

Safety first

Jet fuel study prompts call for protective gear upgrade

By CMSgt. Gary Emery
Air Force Print News

Preliminary results of a health study of exposure to JP-8 jet fuel have led the Air Force Surgeon General to recommend the use of more effective protective equipment for workers who come in contact with the fuel.

People were coming forward with health complaints after being exposed to JP-8, so the Surgeon General started to investigate worker's concerns, said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Thomas Neal, chief consultant for occupational medicine at the Air Force Surgeon General's office.

Reported symptoms included dizziness, lightheadedness, skin irritation and objectionable taste and odor, records show. The Department of Defense completed a 20-year phased changeover from gasoline-based JP-4 to the safer and more versatile kerosene-based JP-8 in 1996.

Information for the study, which compares health data from 169 fuel cell maintenance volunteers with 160 Air Force people who have no contact with JP-8, was gathered over an 18-month period at six stateside bases, Neal said.

Scientists and researchers from several major uni-

"Our interest is our people. We want to do everything possible to keep them healthy and safe."

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Thomas Neal
Chief consultant for occupational medicine, Air Force Surgeon General's office

versities are participating in the \$3.6 million study, which is being funded by the Air Force and other government agencies, he said.

Study results so far indicate no long-term health hazards from JP-8 exposure, Neal said. For instance, medical records show no significant difference in reported ailments between the fuels workers and the control group.

But, Neal said, the study was specifically looking for

acute, short-term health effects in a very narrowly defined group of workers — fuel cell maintainers.

Nevertheless, because short-term JP-8 exposure has unpleasant and uncomfortable side effects, the Air Force is ready to move ahead to the next step — investigating more effective protective clothing and reviewing procedures to ensure maximum personal protection for fuels workers, Neal said.

"For many years, people exposed to solvents — such as painters working in enclosed places — have experienced similar symptoms to those we're seeing in people who enter JP-8 fuel tanks to perform maintenance," Neal said. "But that doesn't mean we're not concerned, we need to be proactive in protecting our people."

"That's not to say we haven't done so already. We have protective equipment and technical orders in place, but we're taking the initiative to explore recent advances in equipment that may provide greater protection," he said.

"Our interest is our people," Neal said. "We want to do everything possible to keep them healthy and safe."

No transportation without registration

TSgt. Richard Waters
60th Security Forces Squadron

The 60th Security Forces Squadron receives numerous inquiries regarding procedures for registering vehicles on Travis.

In accordance with AFI 31-204, Air Force Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision, and the Travis Vehicle Code, all vehicles must be registered on base.

When should I register?

All active duty members and reservists must register their vehicles within 14 calendar days upon assignment to Travis, through their unit orderly room.

Retirees register their vehicles and obtain their decals through the Pass and Registration office in building 381, room C101.

Decals will not be issued unless the registrant produces a permanent state registration. People awaiting new plates may obtain temporary base registration for up to 45 days.

What do I bring?

Requirements to obtain a base decal include: military I.D., valid driver's license, proof of minimum required insurance, the certificate of registration from the state in which the vehicle's registered and evidence of satisfactory completion of local smog testing.

A current California smog inspection certificate or vehi-

cle inspection report is required even for out of state registered vehicles.

Having these documents with you when registering your vehicle will accelerate the base registration process. These items are also required to be with the vehicle when driving on the installation.

Can I sponsor someone on base?

If a function is being held on base, and there are guests who do not have registered vehicles, the sponsor of the event is required to submit a guest list to the Pass and Registration office at least 72 hours prior to the event.

The list must contain the date, time and location of the event, sponsor's information, and a contact telephone number in case a problem occurs.

Upon receiving the guest list, the names will be cross-referenced with the base barment/revocation suspension list, and then sent to the gates and Visitors Center.

Remember that it is the sponsor's responsibility to make sure guests are properly insured and obey base regulations.

Who do I contact?

If you have any questions, please contact the 60th Security Forces Pass and Registration office at 424-3770.

The Visitor Center's telephone number is 424-1462 and is open daily from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. with the exception of Friday's, 6 a.m. to midnight.

NEED A RIDE?

If you are in no condition to drive, use the Dial-a-Ride program. Telephone numbers for participating taxi companies are:

Fairfield Taxi
(707) 422-5555
Yellow Cab of Vacaville
(707) 446-1144
Yellow Cab of Sacramento
(916) 442-4696



CALLING A CAB IS A BETTER OPTION THAN THE ALTERNATIVES.

GOT AN INTERESTING STORY IDEA?
Call 424-2011.

Top DoD personnelist sees value in longer military tours of duty

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Department of Defense's senior personnel official says modifying current "up-or-out" retention rules and establishing longer tours of duty might better serve members and their families.

David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, told reporters Aug. 8 at the Pentagon that DoD is looking at personnel rules that impel service members to move frequently to secure promotions and possibly leave jobs they enjoy and are good at, or leave the force.

Critics of current military personnel practices "would say we've driven the 'up-or-out' principle, both in the officer and enlisted force, a little bit too far," Chu said.

Chu added that Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld "is deeply skeptical about the pattern in which people spend so short a time in each post." The secretary, Chu said, has lately asked about the practicality of having troops, especially commanders, serving in billets for two years or less.

Lengthening tours of duty, Chu said, would enable service members to "stay in a post longer, become more proficient at it and give more value back during that period of time."

DoD officials have looked at the Coast Guard approach that results in somewhat longer tours on average, Chu said. However, longer tours means "people have fewer different experiences in preparing them for more senior responsibilities."

Longer tours could also help reduce the frequent moves that disrupt service members' families.

"You get these evocative

stories of senior officers who ... in 35 years in the service have moved 50 times ... and that is, unfortunately, true," he said.

As the military has become an increasingly married force, Chu wondered aloud, is DoD "providing the kind of environment that an American family in the early 21st century will find attractive, or are we demanding so much, that is, so badly undercutting family life, that we are turning away many talented people either from our (military) service(s) in general or from specific

assignments?"

Mandated by Congress and conducted every four years, the Quadrennial Defense Review evaluates U.S. military strategy, force structure and resource management.

The current review, due to Congress Sept. 30, will be used as a blueprint to transform the U.S. military

for the 21st century.

"I think one of the conclusions we have reached in this QDR process is that, for a variety of reasons, we're trying to jam too much into a 20-year career," Chu said. "People are put in the position of sort of racing from one assignment to another in order to get all the requirements checked off (for promotion)."

Chu said the challenge is to keep the best of both worlds — the incentives from "up-or-out" that prevent stagnation and "hangers-on," and the incentives that would come from letting a person serve longer in a job if they've found their niche, are good at it and want to stay in it.

Sworn into office June 1, Chu is the secretary's senior policy adviser on recruitment, career development and pay and benefits for 1.4 million active duty service members, 1.3 million Guard and Reserve members and 680,000 civilian employees.

"Lengthening tours of duty would enable service members to stay in a post longer, become more proficient at it and give more value back during that period of time."

David Chu
DoD undersecretary of defense for personnel readiness

Military Personnel and Immediate Family

To reach members of your family in times of emergency need, call the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Service Center toll-free at (877) 272-7337.



American Red Cross

Part-time program

Child Development Center 2 will accept registrations beginning at 10 a.m. Aug. 28 for their Part-time Program running from September to June 2002. The program, for children ages 3 to 5, is available to active-duty military, reservists and civilians employed at Travis. Cost is based on total family income, and a sliding fee scale will be used to calculate fees during registration. Parents must have their current Leave and Earning Statement and their child's shot records with them at sign-up. Children with special needs will not be accepted without prior medical screening. Children must be completely potty trained prior to enrollment in the program. For more information, call CDC 2 at 424-5400.

Frozen Coke

The Travis Burger King is offering one free frozen Coke (regular size) per visit to anyone who brings a children's book into the store through Aug. 30. All books will be donated to the Travis Elementary School library and classrooms.

CCAF degree

The final day for the Community College of the Air Force to accept degree nominations for the October class is Aug. 31. Meet with a counselor at the Education Center to review your degree progress. For more information, contact the Education Center at 424-3444.

AFA/AFROTC briefs

Now is the time to start the application process for the Air Force Academy or Prep School. The next deadline for the Academy is Jan. 31, 2002. The Air Force ROTC is another means for earning a college degree and an Air Force commission. The next deadline is March 15, 2002. Representatives from the AFA and AFROTC will be on hand to answer questions about these commissioning opportunities Sept. 7 at 10 a.m. at the Education Center, Bldg. 249. For more information, call 424-1727.

Ballet recital

The Youth Center Russian-style ballet class is looking for dancers for its winter recital, "Sleeping Beauty." The recital is scheduled for Dec. 21, but dancers should sign up now for training classes at the Youth Center. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays for ages 5 and older. For more information, call 424-5392.

ABOUT TRAVIS

TRAVIS COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sunday — ♦ Discover the wonders of the deep blue sea from behind glass at the Monterey Aquarium, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. See more than 300,000 strange and colorful creatures. Come explore the bay and discover a new world. The \$15 fee covers transportation only. Also purchase discounted admission tickets at ITT. Call 424-5659.

Tuesday through Sept. 16 — ♦ The final scuba diving session this year runs from Aug. 21 to Sept. 16. Don't wait to begin your underwater adventure. Cost is \$170. Call 424-5240.

Wednesday — ♦ Visit the Travis Rod and Gun Club from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for an introductory course on gun safety for beginners and earn one ATWIND game piece per participant. There is no cost. Call 424-5240.

Aug. 24 — ♦ Come try the All-U-Care-to-Eat Evening Buffet from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Pizzeria. The \$6.95 cost includes a soda. Reserve the Pizzeria's party room (seats 16) or enjoy a meal on the outdoor patio. The Pizzeria will also deliver pizza free between 5 to 9 p.m. with an \$8 purchase. Call 424-0976.

Aug. 24 — ♦ The ATWIND Family Fun Day Picnic set for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. promises a day of fun and entertainment for the entire family. This year's festivities feature stage performances, prize giveaways, a Whiffle ball tournament at 10 a.m., a Homerun Derby at 1 p.m. and more.

Aug. 24 — ♦ Come join the fun at the Bowling Center's Appreciation Day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and check out the new look. Anyone who is eligible to



Courtesy photo

participate in activities at the center will receive three free lines of bowling throughout the day. Call 437-4737.

Aug. 24 — ♦ Get a taste of Pacific paradise at the Delta Breeze Club's Hawaiian Luau. The evening begins with cocktails at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 and entertainment at 8:30. Menu items include roasted pork, lumpia, Oriental stir-fry and more. Ticket prices are \$17.95 for adults and \$7.95 for children 6-12. Children 5 and under eat free. Non-member surcharge is \$3. Call 437-3711.

Aug. 25 — ♦ Join the Outdoor Adventure Program on its most popular recreational outing — a 12-mile stretch of class I, II and III rapids on the South Fork of the American River. It's perfect for beginners as well as experienced paddlers. The \$40

Putting to the pin: Compete in the Cypress Lakes Invitational scheduled for Aug. 25 and 26. The tournament is open to the public. The \$115 cost includes a continental breakfast for both days, lunch on the second day and participation prizes. Sign-up deadline is Aug. 20. Call 448-7186.

cost includes transportation, equipment and guides. Call 424-5240.

All month — ♦ Game tickets for the WNBA's Sacramento Monarchs basketball team are on sale now at ITT. Cost is \$14 per person. Call 424-5659.

All month — ♦ The 60th Services Squadron is accepting applications for lifeguards for the base pool until Sept. 26. Salary is \$8 per hour. Applicants must have current CPR and First Aid training. To apply, or for more information, stop by the No n-Appropriated Funds Human Resources Office at Bldg. 381, Suite D-210, or call 424-4749. ♦ The Youth Center is looking for volunteers to teach skateboard and inline skate classes at the new Travis Skate Park. For information, call Sandra Latchford at 424-5392.

Booster clubs

All squadron booster clubs are encouraged to staff the Services snack trailer, located at the Travis Skate Park, during peak hours and weekends. Clubs are required to provide their own inventory. Interested organizations, should call Clyde Sniffen at 424-2729.

Dance team

The Hispanic Heritage Council is looking for children between the ages of 6 and 12 to form a youth folklore dance team. The team will be groomed to perform during National Hispanic Heritage

Month. Parents and volunteers who would like to teach or help during practice sessions should contact MSgt. Eva Fuentes at 424-4801 or 437-5332.

Career guidance

"Discover," an interactive computerized career guidance program, is available at the education center. Users can learn what careers match their interests and abilities and research college majors, schools and financial aid opportunities. They can also create a resume and cover letter and practice interviewing skills. Call 424-3444 to schedule an appointment.

Attic donations

If the Airman's Attic is unattended, do not place items outside the door. Donators are asked to contact the Family Support Center staff in order to drop off items. Only usable items with normal wear and tear, such as furniture, small appliances and clothing will be accepted. Unacceptable items include: air conditioners, barbecue grills, bed pillows, car parts, freezers, gas lawn mowers, hats, mattresses, military uniforms, pet products, refrigerators, shoes, socks, stoves, toys, undergarments, water beds and badly soiled or worn out items. For more details, call 424-2486.

CHAPEL**Services****Catholic**

Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m., communion service or Mass, Chapel Center.
Saturday, 4 to 4:45 p.m., confessions, Chapel One.
Saturday Mass, 5 p.m., Chapel One.
Sunday Mass, 9 a.m., Chapel One.
Sunday, 9 a.m., children's liturgy of the Word, Chapel One.
Sunday Mass, 12:30 p.m., Chapel Center.

Protestant

Friday, noon, 30-minute worship service, David Grant Medical Center Chapel.
Sunday, 8 a.m., community, praise & worship service, Chapel Center.
Sunday, 10:30 a.m., community worship service, Chapel Center.
Sunday, 11 a.m., community Gospel service, Chapel One.

Jewish

First Fridays, 7 p.m., Sabbath service, Chapel Center.
Third Saturdays, 10 a.m., Sabbath service, Chapel Center.

Religious Education**Protestant**

Sunday, 8 & 10:30 a.m., Children's Church, 4- to 8-year-olds, Chapel Center.
Sunday, 11 a.m., Children's Church, 4- to 8-year-olds, Chapel One.

Catholic

Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., OCIA, Chapel Center

Wicca

Monday, 6:30 p.m., education classes, RE Wing, Chapel Center.

Youth Groups**Protestant**

Monday, 6 to 7 p.m., "Community Teens For Christ," 12- to 18-year-olds, Chapel One annex.

Other Groups**Protestant**

Second Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Community Young Adult Group, Chapel One annex.
Second Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Protestant Women of the Chapel, Chapel Center.
Third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Protestant Men of the Chapel, Chapel One.

Fridays, 10 a.m., Protestant Women of the Chapel Bible study, Chapel One.

First Saturdays, 8 a.m., Protestant Men of the Chapel, Chapel One.

Fourth Saturdays, 6:30 p.m., Community Young Adult Group, Chaplain Sander's home on base.

Inside Out

Sundays, 6:00 p.m., rock and praise-style worship, Chapel One.

Upcoming classes

Learn more about the Catholic faith by attending an introductory meeting Aug. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel Center Annex. For more information or if planning to attend, call Carol Lee at 424-5780.

Protestant Sunday School begins Sept. 9 from 9:15 to 10:20 a.m. in the Chapel Center Religious Education building. Classes are available for ages 3 through adult. Register now, volunteer to teach or be a classroom helper by calling Gloria Bone at 424-4710.

General Robertson to receive Order of the Sword

By SSgt. Cortchie Welch
Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

The noncommissioned officers of Air Mobility Command will bestow their highest honor on their commander, Gen. Charles T. "Tony" Robertson Jr., by inducting him into the AMC Order of the Sword.

CMSgt. Ken Van Holbeck, AMC command chief master sergeant, presented General Robertson his invitation Aug. 1. Van Holbeck made the presentation on behalf of over 20,000 NCOs in AMC who voted unanimously to induct General Robertson into the Order of the Sword.

"Despite the rigors of commanding two major commands, General Robertson has dedicated himself to continually improve quality of life and quality of service for our enlisted people and their families," Van Holbeck said.

He cited several initiatives the general has championed during his three-year tenure including single occupancy in AMC dormitories, First-term Airmen's Centers, NCO professional development courses, career enlisted flight incentive pay and first sergeant special duty

assignment pay.

"Anyone who has met the general knows of his passion for our mission and our people," Van Holbeck said. "Not only is he a dynamic and caring leader, he's truly a gentleman in every respect. Our command themes during his tenure, the Year of the Enlisted Force, Year of the Family, and Year of Retention and Recruiting have all focused on people. That should tell you something about his commitment to the total force men and women who are Air Mobility Command."

The ceremony will be held Sept. 22 at the Gateway Conference Center in Collinsville, Ill., about 15 miles northwest of the base. The event is open to enlisted people only. A donation of \$35 will cover the costs of dinner, entertainment and mementos. Reservations must be made by Sept. 12.

General Robertson will be AMC's sixth recipient of this honor. The Order of the Sword traces its history from medieval times when NCOs would pledge their loyalty to their leader.

60th TRNS offers free car inspections

By 60th Transportation Squadron

In support of Travis' 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign, the 60th Transportation Squadron is sponsoring a free privately owned vehicle safety inspection today from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Family Support Center parking lot.

Members of 60th TRNS will be inspecting everything from taillights and fluid levels to shock absorbers and electrical wiring. Although the inspectors will not

make repairs, they will use a 23-item checklist to show owners what aspects of their vehicle could use improvement.

Vehicle owners should have their own certified mechanic check out any areas that are marked "fail."

This is the sixth year the squadron has offered the service.

For more information about the safety inspection, call TSgt. Jeffrey Tichinel at 424-5307 or TSgt. Davis at 424-5272.



Honor & Commitment Dignity



Kristina Cilia/visual information

Members of the Honor Guard practiced their drill and ceremony procedures Aug. 10 in front of wing headquarters. With the increased membership, the Guard is manned for anything.

By 1st Lt. Kim Garbett
60th AMW Public Affairs

Their mission is to "honor with dignity." Their motto is "one team."

From funeral details to athletic events, retreats to military posting of the colors, changes of command to retirement ceremonies and color guards, these men and women are the embodiment of the highest military standards and professionalism Travis AFB has to offer.

In a formal graduation and retreat ceremony held at 3:30 p.m. Aug. 10 in front of the 60th Air Mobility Wing as the Delta Breeze whipped around the red, white and blue flag at the flagpole, 22 new Honor Guard graduates were recognized as part of this expanding, high-visibility team. A mock funeral displayed the finesse of the team for those in the audience who had never witnessed the Honor Guard perform before.

In three short months, the Travis Honor Guard jumped from 40 members to a 130-member corps. The team took on a new flavor with a vision adopted approximately 10 months ago. According

to the Honor Guard NCOIC, TSgt. John Saunders, a team of four key players pushed for a transition to the "Total Force" Honor Guard. This team consisted of Saunders; Lt. Col. Linda Thomas, 60th AMW deputy Support Group commander; Lt. Col. Truman Lum, 349th AMW deputy Support Group commander; and Command CMSgt. Dan Johnson.

"Travis' Honor Guard consists of members from both the 60th Air Mobility Wing and the 349th Air Mobility Wing," Saunders said. "Under its new organization, the active duty has six flights, A through F, that rotate every two weeks to handle whatever duty the Honor Guard may be called upon to do daily. The 349th Air Mobility Wing has six full-time members and over 20 airmen to perform funeral honors. We're also currently in negotiations to hopefully bring National Guard members on the Honor Guard as well."

Saunders said Travis' Honor Guard reorganization and growth has really been an outstanding improvement over the way business was once done. "Like

the AEF concept, the new structure offers Honor Guard members and supervisors of those members more predictability to their daily schedules," he said. "It also increases proficiency and provides better training for our members. The quality of funerals and other ceremonies we're asked to participate in has gone up more than 100 percent."

According to the officer-in-charge of the Honor Guard, Capt. John Baquet, an aircraft maintenance officer by trade, the Honor Guard, with only 30 members, was limited in what they could do. "Being a part of the Honor Guard is an honor and a privilege, but here at Travis, it is a full-time job," he said. "Before, with only 30 members, we would have to call around to each squadron and try and catch the people when we had a request. This interrupted a person's schedule as well as what the supervisor hoped to accomplish that day, hindering mission accomplishment to some degree for a few units. This new way, we don't have to do that anymore."

Travis' Honor Guard is one of the most-tasked teams on the West Coast, Baquet said. "We cover a 300-mile radius equivalent to 45,000 square

miles, or basically most of northern California," he began. "Last year, Travis' Honor Guard performed over 300 funerals alone, with the pace expected to significantly increase this year with the closure of McClellan AFB in Sacramento. Travis' Honor Guard accounts for most of the veterans in the area."

In addition to the Total Force/Team Travis concept, Baquet said "joint" is also a word he would readily apply to the Honor Guard. "When it is requested, we also include Army, Navy and Marines as part of our usually all-Air Force team," he said. "It's a great way to work with our sister services and to remember that we are all one team with different missions. And as part of the Honor Guard, we were designed to establish well-trained and highly professional guardsmen and women to represent the finest military traditions of discipline, appearance and competence. This is what we are all about and are

continuously working to perfect every day, every funeral, every retreat, every retirement, every ceremony. It is our identity and the identity of the military as a whole being represented."



Travis ... gateway to everywhere

Let the staff at the Travis passenger terminal get you there

By Michael T. Moseley
Daily Republic liaison

If you're going anywhere in the world, you can get there from here, according to the men and women who staff the Travis passenger terminal.

Last month alone, 11,839 military personnel, their spouses and dependents boarded aircraft on the Travis tarmac.

"We probably see close to 20,000 people a month," said MSgt. Donna Menchaca, the NCOIC of passenger operations. "We actually board fewer than that, but we are still called upon to be everything from a base information counter to the 'Welcome to Travis' center."

Menchaca says, however, that it is just that sort of thing that makes working at the terminal worthwhile.

"Customer service is very rewarding," Menchaca said. "It's not like we're a commercial airline, where if we have a delay or something, we can just shuttle them onto another flight. Sometimes it's difficult to get them on their way again."

Dottie Williams, one of the passenger terminal's more experienced agents, agrees.

"Getting people on an aircraft and getting them home is what it's all about," she said. "Dependents without their sponsors present are especially difficult, but when you get it done, it's a great feeling."

The reason it takes longer to find space available for dependents without sponsors is because of the priority categories that drive the passenger manifest.

The highest category, CAT-1, belongs to those who are on emergency leave. After that, the categories fall in a descending level of priority as follows: environmental morale leave, military

on ordinary leave, unaccompanied dependents, those on permissive TDY and finally retired service members.

"When we start a roll call for a flight, we start with CAT-1 personnel," Menchaca explained. "Then we move on to CAT-2 and so forth. If you don't get there in time for your category, we don't go back and repeat the category, except for CAT-1, which stays open continually. That's why it is so important to be on time."

Another important thing to remember, according to Menchaca, is proper documentation required for a space available flight.

The appropriate identification card is a non-negotiable requirement for military flights. Active-duty members must present an approved leave form. If the aircraft's destination is overseas, passports are required.

Normally each passenger may have two bags of luggage on space A flights, but there are exceptions. While most luggage can only weigh up to 70 pounds each, duffel bags may weigh up to 100 pounds, but are limited to one per person. Large garment bags, golf clubs, skis and fishing gear are counted as one piece of luggage. Families may pool their luggage, and there is one carry-on bag authorized per person.

All of this may be a little too much to remember for those who aren't taking a space A flight any time soon, but that's where SSgt. Sean Lock and his team come into play.

Lock heads up the group that routinely travels around the base, and to any organization that is allowed access to Travis space A flights, and presents a PowerPoint slide presentation about the Travis passenger terminal.

"I'll go anywhere and do a briefing," Lock said. "The more people who know what they need to do, the better. It

saves us a lot of time and saves them a lot of frustration."

Lock is willing to make his slide presentation at commander's calls, squadron briefings or staff meetings, but said the only regularly recurring briefing he does is at the First Term Airman's Center.

"We do FTAC regularly," Lock said. "After all, they're the ones who are going to be using space A a couple of years down the road."

The Travis passenger terminal is manned by 82 military and civilian employees, but it is augmented by Reservists from various units.

Besides the passenger service counter, the Travis terminal also boasts a snack bar, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, a barber shop, displays from local area companies, a waiting area with a large-screen television, an adult waiting room in the USO complex, a family lounge in the USO complex, and an outdoor playground for small children, also in the USO complex.

"A couple of days ago, we had a family who had been trapped here for eight days," Williams said. "When we finally got them on a plane and headed home, they were shouting and crying. It was very emotional, but we were so happy to get them home."

Menchaca, who worked the passenger terminal at Lajes Field, in the Azores, said that working the Travis terminal is vastly different.

"At Lajes, we didn't have any permanently stationed aircraft, everything was in transit," she said. "Here, we have so many different types of missions flying out of here. Every day is different."

"One thing is for sure, you can get anywhere in the world from Travis. We're not just the Gateway to the Pacific, we're the Gateway to Everywhere."



Courtesy photos



(Top). A man stands on the tarmac with his young son as he awaits at the Travis passenger terminal. (Above). A family enjoys the comfort of the family lounge in the USO complex at the passenger terminal. (Far left). Some of the more than 11,000 passengers who passed through Travis in the month of July board a C-5 Galaxy for a space A flight. (Left). Passenger service agent Dottie Williams, at microphone, begins the roll call that is essential to orderly and timely boarding of space A flights.